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Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

Programme 2. Peacekeeping operations

1. At its 12th meeting, on 11 June 1998, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001. It had before it proposals in respect of programme 2, Peacekeeping operations.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 2 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Concern was expressed on the proposed revision to paragraph 2.18, which would replace "demining" with "mine action", since the term "mine action" denoted a wider scope of activities.

4. On new paragraph 2.22, it was noted that the language proposed emanated from the Ottawa Protocol, which had not been approved by the General Assembly, and that there was, therefore, no legislative mandate for the activities proposed. Attention was drawn to General Assembly resolution 52/173 of 18 December 1997, which clearly indicated the areas in which the United Nations could operate. The view was expressed that paragraph 2.22 should be reformulated or that references should be deleted to: "constructive dialogue with the international community at large", "information on technology", "advocacy in support of a global ban on landmines" and the "development and implementation of a comprehensive

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resource mobilization strategy". On the other hand, the view was expressed that the phrase "advocacy in support of a global ban on landmines; and the development and implementation of a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy" should be included in the programme narrative.

5. Attention was also drawn to the sensitive nature of landmines and to the great importance of demining in the activities of peacekeeping operations. It was noted with concern that the references to advocacy in support of a global ban on landmines had broad implications for the subject of landmines and had no mandate from the General Assembly, and that, therefore, those references should be deleted.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the approval of the proposed revisions to programme 2 of the medium-term plan subject to the following modifications:

(a) In the first sentence of paragraph 2.18, *after* demining *add* including mine action coordination

(b) *Replace* proposed new paragraph 2.22 with the following:

"2.22 Another objective of the subprogramme will be to ensure an effective, proactive and coordinated United Nations response throughout the Organization's humanitarian, social and economic assistance activities to mine infestation. This will be achieved through, *inter alia*, the establishment of the mine action service as the focal point within the United Nations system for mine-related activities, namely, facilitation of a coherent and constructive dialogue between the United Nations and relevant actors on mine clearance, awareness and assistance; the collection, analysis and dissemination, through transparent and recognized sources, of mine-related information, including information on technology for mine clearance; the maintenance and promotion of technical and safety standards; advocacy to promote awareness of the serious threat that the indiscriminate use of landmines constitute to the safety, health and lives of the local population; and the development and implementation of a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy."

(c) Under legislative mandates:

(i) Under subprogramme 2.1:

Reinstate the reference to General Assembly resolution 49/233 on administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations so that the entry reads:

***Replace* General Assembly resolution 50/30 with 51/136 and 51/218**

***Add* the following resolution:**

52/173 Assistance in mine clearance

(ii) Under subprogrammes 2.2 and 2.3:

The entry *should read*:

***Replace* General Assembly resolutions 50/30 and 50/221 with 51/136, 51/218 and 51/239 A and B**

(iii) Under subprogramme 2.4:

The entry *should read*:

***Replace* General Assembly resolutions 50/30 and 50/221 with 51/136 and 51/218**

***Add* the following resolution:**

52/173 Assistance in mine clearance